

MINUTES OF MAY 9th, 1923.

The Board of Public Works met at the office of the Board of Public Works, Union Trust Building, Baltimore, Maryland, on Wednesday, May 9th, at 11:30 A. M.

Present:

Albert C. Ritchie, Governor.
William S. Gordy, Jr., Comptroller.
John M. Dennis, Treasurer.

The Minutes of the meeting of April 26th, 1923, were read and approved.

Conservation Commissioner Harrison W. Vickers, Jr., appeared before the Board to discuss the following letter written by him under date of April 11th:

"The Board of Public Works,
Annapolis, Md.

Gentlemen:

The Conservation Department was instrumental in obtaining an increase in the inspection tax on oysters during the last session of the Legislature which operates upon the present fiscal years of 1923 and 1924. By increasing this inspection tax we had hoped to eventually eliminate appropriations from the State's General Funds, and with this end in view, the Budget appropriation for the years 1923 and 1924 was reduced from \$53,740 for the year 1922 to \$8,256.09 for each of the years 1923 and 1924.

"Of course, we realized that all conditions must be very favorable to have our plan work out successfully, and we did not approve of the low appropriation of \$8,256.09, preferring an appropriation of \$15,000 so that we might be better prepared for a possible shortage, but the Legislature saw fit to reduce it.

"In our Budget expenditure items, the sum of \$18,000 is provided for Reserved Areas and Oyster Propagation; that is, we cannot expend more than \$18,000 for the purpose of purchasing shells and oysters to transplant upon some of our depleted natural oyster bars. Under appropriations of former years, we were enabled to save in the neighborhood of \$8,000 a year, and we utilized this amount in purchasing shells during the summer months of 1921 and 1922, and since the Legislature has specifically provided for the continuance of these plans for replenishing our oyster beds, they would naturally expect us to continue this operation until it has been proved a failure. The results of our plantings in 1921 and 1922 are very encouraging and warrant a continuance of same.

"Our entire revenues with the exception of the small appropriation of \$8,256.09 are derived exclusively from receipts from the oyster, crab and fish industries, such as licenses, oyster tax, etc., and we regret to say that the present year has not measured up to expectations; in fact we can see an apparent shortage of \$16,000, owing to several conditions, such as the late freeze in February which prevented the oystermen from catching oysters and coming at a time when the dredging season was almost at a close, a great many of the dredgers

did not return to work for the few remaining days of the dredging season which ended on March 15th.

"It is, however, expected of us to purchase shells, and to do so we shall require at least \$15,000 more from some source to purchase 150,000 bushels. It is about time to contract for shells if we are able to do so, and will say that very liberal terms can be arranged with the seller, who is willing to accept part payment in December and January, and if necessary wait several months beyond that time, without interest.

"We, therefore, request your Honorable Body to consider this matter and devise some means whereby the Department will be enabled to continue for another year the important work of replenishing our depleted natural oyster rocks.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) Harrison W. Vickers, Jr.

Commissioner.

The members of the Board agreed with the Conservation Commissioner that it was important to make an expenditure of \$15,000 for the purchase of shells for planting on depleted bars, and in view of the fact that the revenues which were intended for this purpose had fallen short on account of unforeseen conditions, it was agreed that if the Conservation Commissioner should purchase shells under a deferred payment plan, the Board would recommend to the next Legislature that an appropriation be made sufficient to meet the deficit thereby incurred.

The Governor submitted the following letters in reference to the sale of the lot owned by the State at Maryland and North Avenues:

May 3, 1923.

"Hon. Albert C. Ritchie,
Governor of Maryland,
Union Trust Building,
City.

Dear Governor:

"On behalf of the Baltimore Properties Company I beg to advise you as Chairman of the Board of Public Works, that the proposition submitted by the Board of Public Works for the purchase of the property at the northeast corner of North Avenue and Maryland Avenue, known as the Fourth Regiment Armory lot, upon the following terms, to wit, at and for the price of \$400,000.00, of which \$25,000.00 is to be paid on the 1st day of June, \$25,000 on the 1st day of July, \$50,000.00 on the 1st day of September, and the balance on the 1st day of January, 1924, is approved and accepted by the Baltimore Properties Company.

"If this is your understanding of the proposition I would be glad to have you confirm the same.

Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) D. G. McIntosh, Jr.

May 4, 1923.

"Hon. David G. McIntosh,
216 St. Paul Street,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Senator McIntosh:

I beg to acknowledge your favor of May 3rd, and on behalf of the Board of Public Works, beg to advise you that the terms mentioned by you for the purchase by the Baltimore Properties Company, of the North Avenue lot, are accepted by the State, the same to be embodied of course, in an appropriate contract drawn by the Attorney General along the lines of the draft already prepared by him.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) Albert C. Ritchie,
Governor.

The Secretary submitted vouchers requesting the following payments out of appropriations contained in Chapter 464 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1922:

University of Maryland (Dairy Bldg. & Gym.)	-\$11,000.00
Board of Welfare (State use shop)	20,000.00
University of Maryland (Gym-Armory, Dairy Husbandry bldg., Water & Sewer)	14,836.38

The action of the Secretary in issuing the checks of the Board of Public Works in payment of the above amounts was approved.

The Board approved the payment of the following bills by the Secretary:

April 21, 1923.

STATE OFFICE SUPPLIES AND STATIONERY.

To - Dulany-Vernay Company -	
Cleaning and polishing furniture, office	
Board of Public Works	..\$8.75

May 2, 1923.

TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE.

To - Union Trust Company of Md.	
Telephone service, Bd. of Public Works	..\$20.75

May 4th, 1923.

STATE OFFICE SUPPLIES AND STATIONERY.

To - Tripure Water Company.	
Water, offices, Bd. of Public Works	.. \$1.50
To - American Ice Company.	
Ice, offices, Bd. of Public Works - April	2.50

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.


Secretary.